

## CLAIMS/ARTICLE 19 AMENDMENT

1. (Deleted)

5 2. A communication apparatus comprising:

a transmission mode determining section that  
determines a first transmission mode for controlling a  
transmission bit rate of a signal transmitted from the  
communication apparatus according to a level of ambient  
10 noise included in an input signal at an apparatus of a  
communicating party and a second transmission mode for  
controlling a transmission bit rate of an input signal  
of said communication apparatus based on a level of ambient  
noise included in the input signal at the communication  
15 apparatus; and

a coding section that performs coding on the input  
signal at a transmission bit rate corresponding to said  
second transmission mode and transmits an information  
source code obtained through the coding and said second  
20 transmission mode to the apparatus of the communicating  
party.

3. A communication apparatus comprising:

a decoding section that decodes an information  
25 source code obtained through coding at an apparatus of  
a communicating party;

a transmission mode determining section that

determines a transmission mode for controlling a transmission bit rate of an input signal according to a level of ambient noise in the signal decoded at said decoding section; and

5        a coding section that performs coding on said input signal at a transmission bit rate corresponding to the transmission mode determined at said transmission mode determining section and transmits the information source code obtained through the coding and said transmission  
10        mode to the apparatus of the communicating party.

4.     A communication apparatus comprising:

      a decoding section that decodes an information source code obtained through coding at an apparatus of  
15        a communicating party;

      a transmission mode determining section that determines a transmission mode for controlling a transmission bit rate of said input signal based on a level of ambient noise included in an input signal and  
20        a level of ambient noise of the signal decoded at said decoding section; and

      a coding section that performs coding on said input signal at a transmission bit rate corresponding to the transmission mode determined at said transmission mode  
25        determining section and transmits the information source code obtained through the coding and said transmission mode to the apparatus of the communicating party.

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7. (Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the transmission mode determining section calculates a maximum value and minimum value of a power value of the input signal for a predetermined  
10 time and detects the level of ambient noise included in the input signal using at least one of the maximum value and minimum value of said power value.

8. (Deleted)

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10. (Amended) The communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the transmission mode determining  
20 section carries out processing of determining a transmission mode when a difference between the detected level of ambient noise and a previously detected level is greater than a predetermined threshold.

25 11. A signal coding/decoding method whereby a first communication apparatus and a second communication apparatus carry out radio communication, said second

communication apparatus transmits an information source code obtained by coding an input signal to said first communication apparatus and said first communication apparatus decodes said information source code, the  
5 method comprising:

at the first communication apparatus, determining a transmission mode for controlling a transmission bit rate of a signal transmitted from the second communication apparatus according to a level of ambient noise included  
10 in the input signal and transmitting said transmission mode to said second communication apparatus;

at the second communication apparatus, coding the input signal at a transmission bit rate corresponding to the transmission mode determined by said first  
15 communication apparatus and transmitting the information source code obtained through the coding to said first communication apparatus; and

at the first communication apparatus, decoding the information source code at said transmission bit rate  
20 transmitted from said second communication apparatus.

12. (Deleted)

13. (Deleted)